

COMMITMENT



Texas Department of Health
Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program

January, 1999

Volume 8, Number 1

New CDC Policy Prioritizes Women Previously Screened

In a move certain to have far-reaching effects on the provision of Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) approved on (date) a rescreening policy, effective January 1, 1999. CDC funds the BCCCP.

The policy stipulates that states give specific recommendations for screening intervals for mammography and Pap tests, and that women previously screened under the BCCCP should be prioritized for services.

Each state must develop a rescreening policy and protocol to go into effect at the beginning of the

next budget period. The next budget period in Texas begins September 1, 1999.

The Texas BCCCP appointed in December an ad hoc committee to assist in drafting a rescreening policy. The committee includes local BCCCP providers. State office staff will coordinate with this committee to assure a thoughtful, expeditious process in setting these new Program parameters.

The determined rescreening intervals will become a BCCCP requirement. While the Texas policy and protocol are yet to be determined, they will likely require incorporating information on rec-

ommended rescreening intervals into counseling sessions, and sending women reminder notices.

While adding this emphasis on rescreening, CDC will still require states to meet the federal requirement of having women age 50 to 64 receive at least 75 percent of BCCCP-funded mammograms. Continuing to meet this age requirement while prioritizing services to women previously screened will be a challenge.

The BCCCP encourages any provider with suggestions, concerns or experience in rescreening to call Margaret C. Méndez, Program Director, no later than February 1, 1999 at (800) 452-1955.

Mid-Year Funding Allocation

The Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) will be sending letters to providers in late January regarding mid-year funding allocations. Providers will be asked to submit a letter describing how much additional funding is needed and its intended use.

BCCCP will look at several factors in considering additional funding request include how much

money has already been spent, how much money is needed to complete the contract period, how many women have been served, any outstanding performance issues, and the provider's quarterly reports.

For more information on the additional funding, contact Robert Reeves, Program Administrator or Kathy Kokel, Contract Specialist at (800) 452-1955.

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BCCCP Briefs

Training

The following breast and colposcopy classes are being offered through M.D. Anderson in Houston.

Breast

3/8 - 3/11/99 - 5 slots available

Colposcopy

5/3 - 5/6/99 - 1 slot available

6/7 - 6/10/99 - 2 slots available

For more information or to register for the classes, contact Karen McAnarney, R.N., Nurse Consultant at (800) 452-1955.

Who to Call & How to Reach Us...

General Information/Administration:

Margaret Méndez Robert Reeves

Nora Ogea Lisa West

Lurah Scott Rhonnda Jones

Professional Education, Clinical

Services, Case Management:

Karen Knox Karen McAnarney

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name, period and last name)@tdh.state.tx.us

Website Address

<http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/bcccp/>

Local Changes

Please call or write Lisa West, Administrative Technician, with **ANY** changes in local phone numbers, personnel or providers.
Thank you.

Beaded Necklaces Offer Educational Opportunity for BCCCP Clients

The Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) will order educational beaded necklaces for providers to use for client education.

The beads are of graduated sizes from 6 to 28 mm and strung on a cord. The beads represent the size of lumps that can be found with a mammogram, by a doctor or by the woman. Through this teaching instrument, women learn that they could have a sizable lump and, depending on its location, would not be able to feel it. The necklace gives a woman a tangible reminder of what they learned. They can share the information with friends or relatives whenever they wear the necklaces.

The necklaces will come unstrung and providers may decide to have women string the beads as they learn about what the sizes mean. Providers may also decide to have the necklaces already strung to offer to women.

BCCCP providers in other states have used the beads with great success. They are especially successful with clients low-literacy. For more information about the beads and to place your order, contact Andrea Littlefield, Information Specialist at (800) 452-1955.



Beaded Necklaces -- Photo shows beaded necklaces that are used throughout the country. Similar necklaces will be available to providers in Texas.

Minority Cancer Awareness Week

Minority Cancer Awareness Week is scheduled for the week of April 19, 1999. Providers are encouraged to begin thinking of ideas for outreach. The Program will send some

materials to providers in February. If you have any questions, contact Steve Wright, Public Information Coordinator at (800) 452-1955.

Ask The Expert

Don't forget, you can submit your own questions on any subject related to the program such as nursing, case management, billing, data or outreach. Send questions to Andrea Littlefield, Information Specialist, 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, TX 78756-3199.

Q A woman received an abnormal clinical breast examination (CBE), we sent her for a consultation with a physician and he determined that the CBE was normal and the woman required no further follow-up. Is our requirement met for follow-up on this client?

A No, this is not adequate follow-up. According to the Breast Protocols for BCCCP, you need one other procedure such as a diagnostic mammogram, ultrasound, or biopsy to meet the requirement for follow-up. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's algorithm for follow-up states "If CBE result is 'abnormality suspicious for cancer' and/or mammography test result is either 'suspicious abnormality-biopsy should be considered' or 'highly suggestive of malignancy', or 'assessment is incomplete' and no final diagnosis is recorded, then diagnostic follow-up is not adequate."

AARP Materials Available through BCCCP

The Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) has information available from the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). The materials discuss the changes in Medicare benefits, including the addition of the mammography benefit for this year.

If you are interested in receiving these materials, contact Andrea Littlefield, Information Specialist at (800) 452-1955. A limited supply is available.



Korner

QuAC (Quality Assurance and Control) is a new software program the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) State office has implemented this year in an effort to better oversee provider needs and offer assistance. QuAC was written by BCCCP to achieve two objectives:

1. Standardize how BCCCP looks at data
2. Make information available to all State office staff members

QuAC is composed of two parts: (1) data analysis and (2) a messaging system. Data from data forms, billing summaries and cancer staging (TMN) information are analyzed and presented as bar graphs and numbers. Other data, such as provider achievements, outreach efforts, staff changes, alliances, concerns and problem areas are stored as messages. Messages can be viewed by provider or by category (such as billing). All data are updated and available on a continuous basis by every State office staff member. QuAC benefits all providers in that all State office staff is looking at the same data and is able to offer support to providers on a variety of issues.

Watch this spot for future articles on QuAC! If you have any questions about QuAC, contact Steve Johnson, Systems Analyst at (800) 452-1955.

BCCCP Video Offered as Free Check-out at Blockbuster Stores

The Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) is participating in an initiative sponsored by the Governor's Commission for Women and Blockbuster Video. The "Texas Women Decide...Your Health is in Your Hands" campaign consists of the "Healthy Dose of Knowledge Video Collection" which is available for free check-out at most Blockbuster Video stores in Texas.

The video "Once Step at a Time," developed by the BCCCP is part of the collection. This video offers a step-by-step guide to the breast cancer screening process. Other videos cover a variety of topics including menopause, nutrition, hormone replacement therapy, arthritis, smoking, blood pressure, diabetes and osteoporosis.



Video Display -- Display of videos available for free rental through Blockbuster Video Stores.

Important Dates

January

January 1 - New Year's Day

State Office Closed

January 18 - Martin Luther King Day

State Office Closed

January 19 - Confederate Heroes Day

Skeleton Crew at State Office

January 30 - Quarterly Reports Due

February

February 15 - Presidents' Day

State Office Closed

The videos are available in English and Spanish. Call your local Blockbuster Video for availability information. For more information about the project, contact Steve Wright, Public Information Coordinator at (800) 452-1955.

Women Served*:

107,625

Breast Screenings:

129,964

Cervical Screenings:

97,748

Breast Cancers:

663

Cervical Carcinoma in situ:

1454

Invasive Cervical Cancer:

48

*As of December 3, 1998

Commitment

A monthly bulletin

Send news/information to:

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED